

April 18, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: *Western Massachusetts Electric Company*
D.T.E. 01-36/02-20 Phase 2

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

On December 27, 2002, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") issued an order in the above-referenced proceeding on an offer of settlement by the Attorney General and Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO"). The order resolved all transition cost issues in the two proceedings (as well as any residual issues from the prior transition cost reconciliation proceeding, D.T.E. 00-33). The only remaining issues in the D.T.E. 01-36/02-20 proceeding relate to the reconciliation of certain transmission and Standard Offer costs.¹

The Department held a hearing on the transmission and Standard Offer reconciliations on March 13, 2003. Robert A. Baumann and Paula M. Taupier testified for WMECO. Entered into the record at the conclusion of that hearing were: WMECO's pre-filed testimony and supporting schedules (Exhibit WM-1); WMECO's responses to data requests (Exhs. DTE-IR-1-1 through 1-22, Exhs. DTE-IR-2-1 and 2-2, Exhs. AG-IR-1-1 through AG-IR-1-11, Exhs. AG-IR-2-1 through 2-3, Exhs. AG-3-1 through 3-3); Exhs. DTE-1 and DTE-2; and Exh. AG-4. WMECO subsequently responded to thirteen record requests (DTE-RR-1 through 5 and AG-RR-1 through 8). Pursuant to the Department's practice, these are considered to be part of the record.

At the March 13 hearing, the Hearing Officer determined that initial briefs, if any, would be due April 18, 2003.² At the hearing, WMECO indicated that it was

¹ Although not filed by WMECO as part of D.T.E. 01-36/02-20, the Department determined that these two reconciliation factors should be reviewed in the context of the transition charge reconciliation proceedings. See D.T.E. 00-110 (January 4, 2001); D.T.E. 01-101 (December 27, 2001).

² This briefing date was subject to change if the Attorney General required any further examination on record request responses. WMECO has received no communication from the Attorney General that any further examination is necessary.

unaware of any issue that required briefing but that it would respond in its reply brief should any such issue be raised.³ Tr., p. 150. Accordingly, please consider this letter WMECO's initial brief. Should a reply brief be necessary, it will be submitted pursuant to the schedule established by the Hearing Officer.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Klionsky

cc: Kevin Penders, Hearing Officer
Service List

³ The only point that merits mention pertains to the interest rate calculation on the 2000 Standard Offer under-recovery. WMECO agrees that interest should be calculated using the interest rate for customer deposits. Exh. DTE-RR-2.